DEREK KILMER
6TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

**COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS** 

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES SUBCOMMITTEE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES SUBCOMMITTEE

## Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515-4706

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March 8, 2017

## Dear Vice President Pence:

We write to follow up on our letter to President Trump dated February 8, 2017. In that letter, 78 Members of Congress requested that any investigation that President Trump's administration conducts into voter irregularities in the 2016 presidential election include a thorough investigation and analysis of voter suppression and disenfranchisement.

As of this date, we have not yet received a response from the President. However, we have learned that you are organizing a task force on voter fraud, and so we write to you directly to renew our call for a careful and fulsome examination of voter suppression.

We are attaching our prior letter here for your review in full. All Americans deserve a voice in our elections and the freedom to cast their votes without interference. However, restrictive voter suppression laws and intimidation tactics threaten that process. There are serious concerns about election laws being passed and considered by states across the country and their impact on the ability of eligible voters to access the ballot box.

Specifically, we write today to respectfully request that instead of investigating the myth of voter fraud, your task force thoroughly investigate and analyze the reality of voter suppression across our nation. However, if you intend to move forward with building a task force to examine voter fraud, we respectfully request that:

- (1) you ensure that the scope of that task force specifically includes a thorough investigation and analysis of voter suppression and disenfranchisement across our nation; and that
- (2) your task force specifically include members with special expertise in voting rights, access to the ballot box, disenfranchisement, and voter suppression laws, especially new voting laws enacted in states across the nation since the 2013 Supreme Court decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*.

We firmly believe that it would be a disservice to our nation to neglect mounting concerns over voter suppression. We respectfully request your response to the above requests by Wednesday, March 22, and we hope to work together with you to remedy widespread voter disenfranchisement across our country.

Sincerely,

Derek Kilmer

Member of Congress

Terri Sewell

Member of Congress

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Elijah E. Cummings Member of Congress

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